

**Chatman, Cheryl A NWW**

From: RogerCole [rwcoble@jps.net]  
Sent: Wednesday, February 23, 2000 10:36 AM  
To: Salmonstudy  
Cc: conserve@iwla.org  
Subject: Remove the Snake River Dams

Department of the Army

> Walla Walla District, Corps of Engineers

> Attn: Lower Snake River Study

> 201 North Third Avenue

> Walla Walla, WA 99362-1876

>

>Roger Cole, President

>**Streaminders - chapter of the Izaak Walton League**

>P.O. Box 68

Forest Ranch, CA 95942

> RE: Draft Lower Snake River Juvenile Salmon Migration Feasibility Report  
> and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS)

>

> I am writing to express my support for Alternative #4, the dam  
> breaching alternative. As a stream restoration consultant, I am deeply  
> concerned about the plight of wild Snake River salmon and steelhead, which  
> have declined

> precipitously since the last of the four federal dams was constructed on

> the lower Snake River. Obviously, since what we have been doing to

> conserve Snake River salmon and steelhead has not worked, maintaining the

> status quo (Alternative #1) is unacceptable. Doing more of the same on a

> simply larger scale (Alternatives # 2 and #3) is economically and

> biologically unsound, as well.

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> It is becoming more and more evident that the best way to restore salmonid  
runs is to restore river processes (McBain and Trush,1997), and many others  
papers as well.

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> The scientific analysis in the DEIS clearly indicates that dam breaching  
> is the alternative with by far the best likelihood of recovering  
impaired

> Snake River salmon and steelhead. Although a holistic approach that

> meaningfully addresses habitat, hatcheries and harvest is also necessary,

> restoring the lower Snake to a free flowing river is an absolutely

> indispensable component of any successful recovery strategy.

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> The economic impact analysis in the DEIS overstates the costs associated  
> with dam breaching and underestimates the benefits of a free-flowing  
> river, such as indirect economic benefits from increased sport fishing,  
> river recreation and tourism from nonresidents.

> The cost analysis is fundamentally flawed by not fully incorporating the  
costs of

> nonbreaching alternatives, including fish bypass and transportation  
costs, Clean

> Water Act compliance measures, flow augmentation from the upper Snake

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River in

> southern Idaho, and potential tribal treaty abrogation costs.

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> In closing, I urge the Corps of Engineers to select Alternative #4  
> as the Preferred Alternative in the Final EIS. We owe it to ourselves and  
> to future generations to make the best choices for the long run today,  
the best

> investment, to ensure that these magnificent fish survive and recover to  
> the point of once again being viable, self-sustaining resource.

>

> Sincerely,

>

> Roger Cole, President

> Streaminders chapter of the Izaak Walton League

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